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## UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS, NEW SOUTH WALES, MAY 1985

**Inquiries :** If you would like to obtain further information about these statistics, please ring Mr Patrick Corr on (02) 268 4495; contact ABS Information Services on (02) 268 4611, at level 3, St. Andrew's House, Sydney Square, Sydney; or write to the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician, Box 796 GPO, Sydney 2001.

### MAIN FEATURES

*Underemployed workers are people working part-time who would prefer to work more hours and certain full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours - see Explanatory note 8.*

- Of the estimated 2,273,900 employed persons in New South Wales at May 1985, 97.0 per cent (2,205,300 persons) were fully employed and 3.0 per cent (68,500 persons) were underemployed. There were also an estimated 226,100 persons unemployed. This represented an underutilisation rate of 11.8 per cent, comprising an unemployment rate of 9.0 per cent and an underemployment rate of 2.7 per cent.
- While the majority of unemployed persons were male (62.6 per cent), the majority of underemployed workers were female (64.5 per cent). The underemployment rate for females was 4.7 per cent, compared to the male rate of 1.6 per cent.
- The highest proportions of underemployed workers were recorded in the 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 year age groups. Of those in the 35 to 44 year age group, 73.6 per cent were female.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

This publication contains results for New South Wales of a supplementary survey on underemployed workers run in association with the May 1985 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia. The monthly labour force survey and supplementary surveys form the monthly population survey (which is described in The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates), New South Wales (6201.1)).

2. Whilst some data on underemployed workers are available from other surveys, May 1985 was the first time that a supplementary survey on this topic was conducted. It is proposed that this survey next be conducted in May 1988.

3. National aggregate results (with limited State details) were issued in March 1986 in Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0).

#### Scope

4. The scope of this supplementary survey is the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates), New South Wales (6201.1)), except that it is restricted to underemployed workers.

#### Definitions

5. A resolution of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (in October

1982) defined underemployment as follows:

'Underemployment exists when a person's employment is inadequate in relation to specified norms or alternative employment, account being taken of his or her occupational skill'.

6. The Conference resolution further distinguished two principal forms of underemployment, visible and invisible:

a. visible underemployment reflects an insufficiency in the volume of employment (i.e. the hours worked); and

b. invisible underemployment exists when the labour supplied to the labour market is not being efficiently utilised in terms of either the type of work offered to the individual (disguised underemployment) or how the individual's working time is used (potential underemployment).

7. Due to the serious conceptual difficulties that would be encountered in seeking measures of invisible underemployment, the ILO recommended that statistical measurement be limited to visible underemployment. This is the approach adopted in this supplementary survey.

8. The approach adopted by the ABS is to define two categories of underemployed workers:

a. Part-time workers who indicate that they would prefer to work more hours, i.e. under-employed part-time workers.

b. Full-time workers who did not work full-time hours (i.e. did not work 35 hours or more) in the reference week for economic reasons,



i.e. underemployed full-time workers. Economic reasons comprise stood down, short time and insufficient work.

9. Fully employed workers are defined as those persons who are voluntarily working part-time, or who worked full-time hours in the reference week, or who are full-time workers who did not work full-time hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons. It should be noted that persons who are normally underemployed but who worked full-time hours in the reference week are classified as fully employed.

10. The underemployment rate for any group is the number of underemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group.

11. The underutilisation rate for any group is the sum of the number unemployed and the number underemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

12. Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

13. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates) New South Wales (6201.1).

#### Revised definition of employed persons

14. A revised questionnaire was introduced for the monthly population survey from the April 1986 survey. Following the introduction of this questionnaire, the definition of employed persons has been extended to include persons who worked without pay between 1 and 14 hours per week in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers). For further information see Explanatory Note 6 of The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates), New South Wales, May 1986, (6201.1).

15. Due to the above revised definition, there are some slight variations between estimates in this publication and the revised estimates for May 1985 shown in the May 1986 issue of The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates), New South Wales (6201.1).

#### Reliability of the estimates

16. Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error.

a. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in these tables are based on information obtained from an occupant of each of a sample of dwellings, the estimates are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey. In the tables in this publication, estimates with a relative standard error of greater than 25 per cent and percentages based on such estimates have not been included and have been replaced with an asterisk (\*). Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable. More information on this topic is given in the Technical Note in Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0).

b. Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, errors made in collection such as in recording and coding of data, and errors made in processing the data. They may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

#### Related ABS publications

17. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

The Labour Force (Including Regional Estimates), New South Wales (6201.1) (Quarterly)

A Guide to Labour Statistics (6102.0)

Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0)

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0)

18. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (1101.0) which is available, free of charge, from any ABS Office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- .. Not applicable
- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

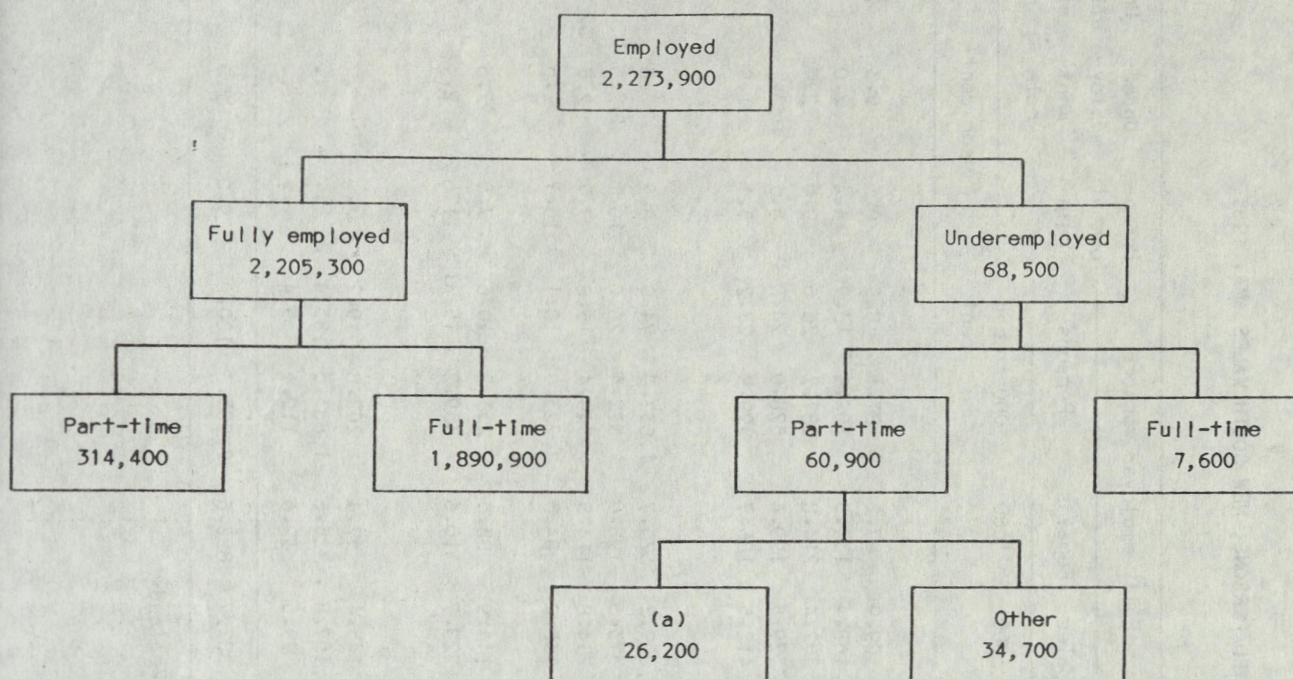
19. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the total shown. Published proportions are calculated prior to rounding of figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these proportions and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

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DIAGRAM 1. EMPLOYED PERSONS : RELATIONSHIP OF UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS  
TO FULLY EMPLOYED WORKERS, NEW SOUTH WALES, MAY 1985



(a) Underemployed part-time workers who had been looking for work with more hours at some time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and were available to start such work within four weeks.

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER : LABOUR FORCE STATUS,  
WHETHER FULLY EMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED AND TYPE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT(a),  
NEW SOUTH WALES, MAY 1985

Particulars	Males	Females	Persons	Per cent of employed persons
- '000 -				
Civilian population aged 15 and over	2,043.6	2,117.3	4,160.9	..
Not in the labour force	495.1	1,165.8	1,660.9	..
In the labour force	1,548.6	951.4	2,500.0	..
Unemployed	141.6	84.6	226.1	..
Employed	1,407.0	866.9	2,273.9	100.0
Fully employed	1,382.7	822.6	2,205.3	97.0
Part-time	64.8	249.6	314.4	13.8
Full-time	1,317.9	573.0	1,890.9	83.2
Underemployed	24.3	44.2	68.5	3.0
Part-time	19.2	41.7	60.9	2.7
Had been looking for work (b)	10.3	16.0	26.2	1.2
Other	8.9	25.7	34.7	1.5
Full-time	5.1	*	7.6	0.3
- per cent -				
Unemployment rate	9.1	8.9	9.0	..
Underemployment rate	1.6	4.7	2.7	..
Underutilisation rate	10.7	13.5	11.8	..

(a) See Explanatory Notes 8 and 9. (b) See footnote to Diagram 1 above.



TABLE 2. COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF UNEMPLOYED, UNDEREMPLOYED AND FULLY EMPLOYED PERSONS, NEW SOUTH WALES, MAY 1985

Particulars	Unemployed persons				Underemployed workers				Fully employed workers				Unemp- loyment rate	Under- employ- ment rate	Under- utilis- ation rate
	Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons		per cent	per cent	per cent
	'000	'000	'000	per cent	'000	'000	'000	per cent	'000	'000	'000	per cent			
Age group (years) -															
15-19	26.1	25.2	51.3	22.7	5.2	8.0	13.3	19.3	99.9	87.2	187.1	8.5	20.5	5.3	25.8
20-24	32.4	20.7	53.2	23.5	*	4.4	7.4	10.8	168.4	134.5	302.9	13.7	14.4	2.0	16.4
25-34	39.7	19.8	59.5	26.3	6.9	11.1	18.0	26.2	372.4	214.8	587.2	26.6	9.0	2.7	11.7
35-44	18.5	11.6	30.1	13.3	4.8	13.4	18.2	26.5	329.5	199.4	528.9	24.0	5.1	3.1	8.2
45 and over	24.8	7.3	32.1	14.2	4.4	7.3	11.8	17.1	412.5	186.7	599.2	27.2	5.1	1.9	6.9
Birthplace and year of arrival -															
Born in Australia	98.2	62.6	160.7	71.1	18.0	34.2	52.2	76.1	1,009.2	623.7	1,632.9	74.0	8.7	2.8	11.5
Born outside Australia	43.4	22.0	65.4	28.9	6.3	10.1	16.4	23.9	373.5	198.9	572.4	26.0	10.1	2.5	12.6
Arrived before 1971	21.1	8.6	29.7	13.1	3.7	6.0	9.7	14.2	234.8	114.5	349.4	15.8	7.7	2.5	10.2
Arrived 1971-1985	22.3	13.4	35.7	15.8	*	4.1	6.6	9.7	138.7	84.3	223.0	10.1	13.7	2.5	16.2
Born in main English speaking countries (a)	12.7	6.5	19.2	8.5	*	5.4	6.8	9.9	144.9	88.3	233.2	10.6	7.5	2.6	10.2
Born in other countries	30.8	15.5	46.2	20.4	4.9	4.6	9.6	14.0	228.7	110.6	339.2	15.4	11.8	2.4	14.3
Status of worker -															
Self-employed	..	..	..	..	5.8	5.8	11.7	17.0	145.4	57.4	202.8	9.2	..	..	..
Wage and salary earners	..	..	..	..	18.3	37.5	55.7	81.3	1,157.8	725.6	1,883.3	85.4	..	..	..
Employers/unpaid family helpers	..	..	..	..	*	*	*	*	79.5	39.6	119.1	5.4	..	..	..
Total	141.6	84.6	226.1	100.0	24.3	44.2	68.5	100.0	1,382.7	822.6	2,205.3	100.0	9.0	2.7	11.8

(a) Comprises United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand.

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